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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

paste. When the surface is perfect, clean it off with a wad of carpet and, if you can get it, some fine mahogany dust.

The surface made by this process improves with wear.

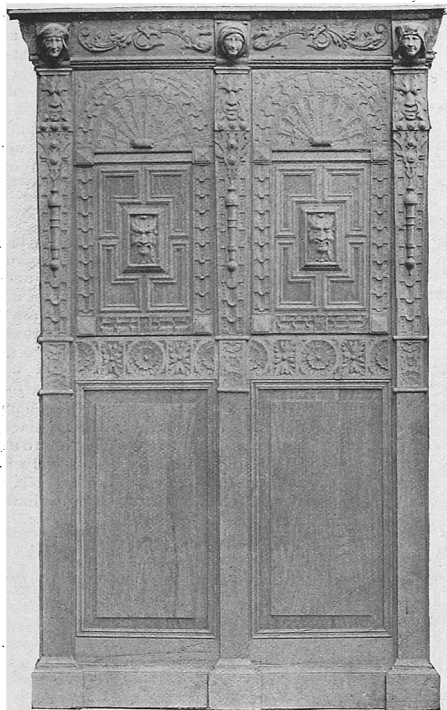
To clean soft mahogany or other porous woods, first scrape off and sandpaper in the usual way. Then wet the surface with a sponge of water. This will raise the grain of the wood, which can be cut away with pumice stone (fine lump)

hot, and rub with a hard brush. The polish may be renewed at any subsequent time by rubbing with a piece of fine cloth.

Such, in brief, are some of the means used in renovating or preparing furniture, and this work certainly will confer as much satisfaction and pleasure on the fair amateur worker as plaque painting, with more practical results.

## DECORATIVE NOTE.

THERE are at least two distinct styles of interior furnishing that one can adopt, according to his temperament. The perfection of good taste can be manifested equally in both. Some natures will prefer the elegant, sober, practical and reasonable modern furniture after the Chippendale, Sheraton or Colonial styles of those forms in which good taste has set aside over-extravagance of ornamentation. On the other hand, there are those who will reject the isolated individuality of such furniture, and who will prefer an arrangement of several luxurious divans, heavily freighted with pillows, with or without the accompaniment of constructed alcoves, of modern grille work



EARLY ENGLISH CARVED CABINET. BY KAHN & CO.

rubbing the wood in the direction of the grain and keeping it moist with water. Let the work then dry. Then wet again and rub. Repeat the process until the surface becomes perfectly smooth and the texture of the wood much hardened. If this should not prove satisfactory, try pumice stone (lump) and raw linseed oil. This will give a durable face to the work, which then may be polished or varnished.

The polishing of furniture seems to be of comparatively modern date. The effect is that a hard-faced surface is secured which is not so liable to become scratched as varnish, and what presents equally as brilliant and fine an appearance. There are several pastes and polishes used, a few of which are here-with given:

A good furniture polish is made with an half ounce of beeswax and a quarter ounce of alkaret root, which are melted together until the wax is well colored. Then add half a gill each of raw linseed oil and spirits of turpentine. Strain through muslin.

A polishing paste is made as follows: Take three ounces white wax, half an ounce of castile soap, one gill spirits of turpentine. Shave the wax and soap very fine and put the wax into the turpentine. Let the mixture stand twenty-four hours. Then boil the soap in one gill of water, and add to the wax and turpentine. This paste is highly recommended by practical men.

To wax furniture, use a mixture of two ounces white or yellow wax according to color of wood, and which has first been melted over a moderate fire, and four ounces best spirits of turpentine. Stir until cool or, if for immediate use, apply



LOUIS XV. CARVED CABINET. BY KAHN & CO.

and silken draperies. Both methods are in themselves equally beautiful, and may be equally devoid of all that is senseless and absurd, overdone and stifling.

PALACES on wheels are the new Wagner cars of the great through trains of the New York Central.